change. Besides these two, FDI is not allowed in any other agricultural sector/ activity.

Permission to foreign companies for retail business

†1059. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission is being granted to the foreign companies by Government to enter into the retail business in India;

(b) if so, whether Government's attention has been drawn towards its effects on the domestic retail business; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent tne neglect of domestic retail products and work force by the multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed in retail sector except FDI in retail trade of 'Single Brand' products, where FDI up to 51% is allowed with prior Government approval. So far 17 approvals have been given for FDI in 'Single Brand' products.

(b) Government has imposed suitable safeguards against adverse impact on small traders by allowing FDI only in retail of 'Single Brand' products.

(c) FDI in Single Brand product retailing would *inter-alia*, encourage production and marketing, and increased sourcing of goods from India. Products sold under Single Brand Retail with FDI cater to the brand-conscious, young, middle class clientele having a different niche as compared to that served by the small traders and is not expected to adversely affect the existing small traders and workforce employed therein.

Overlap in the role of Tariff Commission and Chief Advisor Cost

1060. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a significant overlap in the roles of the Tariff Commission under Ministry of Commerce and Chief Advisor Cost in Department of Revenue; and

(b) if so, whether Government would merge the two or eliminate one of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.